

State: South Carolina Assistive Technology Program

Part I: Attachments

OMB Control Number: 1820-0664

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Attachment 1: Basic Information

Name of Lead Agency: University of South Carolina School of Medicine

Name of Applicable Division and/or Subdivision of Lead Agency: Department of Pediatrics, Center for Disability Resources, University Center for Excellence

Address of Lead Agency: University of South Carolina School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, Center for Disability Resources, Columbia, South Carolina 29208

Name and Title of Certifying Representative for Lead Agency: Daniel L. Christmus, Senior Sponsored Program Administrator, University of South Carolina Research Foundation

Address for Certifying Representative: University of South Carolina Research Foundation, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina 29208

Telephone for Certifying Representative: (803) 777-7093

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Name and Title of Program Director: Richard R. Ferrante, Director of Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, Research Professor, Department of Pediatrics

Address for Program Director: Center for Disability Resources, Department of Pediatrics, University of South Carolina School of Medicine, Columbia, South Carolina 29208

Telephone for Program Director: 803 935-5248

E-mail for Program Director: richardf@cdd.sc.edu

Name and Title of Program Contact (if different from Program Director): Evelyn Evans, Director

Address for Program Director: South Carolina Assistive Technology Program, Center for Disability Resources, Department of Pediatrics, University of South Carolina School of Medicine, Columbia, South Carolina 29208

Telephone for Program Director: 803-935-5340

E-mail for Program Director: evelyne@cdd.sc.edu

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Name of Implementing Entity: Not applicable.

Name of Applicable Division and/or Subdivision of Implementing Entity: Not applicable.

Address of Implementing Entity: Not applicable.

Name and Title of Program Director: Not applicable.

Address for Program Director: Not applicable.

Telephone for Program Director: Not applicable.

E-mail for Program Director: Not applicable.

Name and Title of Program Contact (if different from Program Director): Not applicable.

Address for Program Director: Not applicable.

Telephone for Program Director: Not applicable.

E-mail for Program Director: Not applicable.

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Attachment 2: Lead Agency and Implementing Entity

2.1 Identification and Description of the Lead Agency - Identify and describe the Lead Agency referred to in section 4(c)(1)(A) of the AT Act.

2.1A Identification and Description of Lead Agency if an Implementing Entity is not Designated

In 1991, the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department (SCVRD) was designated the lead agency for the Statewide AT grant program.

In 1996, in agreement with SCVRD, the Governor designated the USC School of Medicine, Center for Disability Resources, University Center for Excellence (CDR) as the lead agency for the Statewide AT Program, called the South Carolina Assistive Technology Program (SCATP). The CDR is directly responsible for conducting and overseeing the activities of SCATP.

SCATP provides South Carolinians free access to information and referral services, an accessible Web site, and publications in accessible formats on extensive topics related to disability rights, laws, policies, and funding opportunities for assistive technology (AT).

The mission of SCATP is to increase the provision of, access to, and funding for assistive technology for South Carolinians of all ages and all disabilities through a variety of comprehensive activities and services available statewide. Over the next three years, under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended, the USC School of Medicine CDR will continue to serve as the lead agency responsible for SCATP and SCATP will continue and expand current programs and begin new programs to accomplish this mission.

The University of South Carolina is a public, four year, nationally accredited comprehensive institution of higher education. Because the university is not a state agency dedicated to specific programs that promote limited activities or serve limited populations, SCATP has the flexibility to assist individuals with AT needs across the lifespan and in any environment or for any AT-related purpose. This flexibility also means that access to SCATP programs is not limited by eligibility criteria such as income, age, type of disability, or the reason that an individual needs AT. Despite being located in the center of South Carolina, SCATP makes its programs available statewide through a toll-free number, an accessible website, and by conducting activities in all regions of the state on a periodic basis.

SCATP employs, and will continue to employ, a staff of educated and motivated professionals with expertise in the field of AT and disabilities.

The SCATP staff includes a member with a doctorate in Speech-Language Pathology. SCATP staff also includes three members with expertise and over fifteen years of experience each, in AT for daily living, education, computer access, home and work

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modifications, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and/or SC disability laws and policies. New staff members include a person with post-graduate certification in web design and development and experience in applications/database programming and a person with a doctorate in assistive technology in the field of special education working with people with mild to severe disabilities. Two graduate assistants from the speech language program at South Carolina State University (SCSU) work in the AT Center. SCATP staff will receive ongoing training in order to stay current in the field.

In the next two years, SCATP will provide South Carolinians with access to expertise that addresses AT needs in all areas of life, with particular emphasis on education, employment, information technology (IT) and telecommunication, and community living. SCATP will ensure that the skills of its staff remain current by providing them with training opportunities throughout the three years covered by this state plan.

SCATP has a fifteen-year history of established relationships with public and private entities in the state. SCATP staff members participate on boards, advisory councils, workgroups, committees, and commissions that address the needs of South Carolinians with disabilities across the life span with agencies such as: the SC State Department of Education (SDE), the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department (SCVR), Carolina Sunshine for Children, SC Interagency Partners in Transition, South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind (SCSDB), the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN), and the SC Budget and Control Board, Office of the Chief Information Officer (CIO).

SCATP works with school districts throughout the state on AT-related issues. SCATP will continue these activities, and provide training and technical assistance to the above agencies and other entities within the state. SCATP also will work with these agencies and others on new and ongoing initiatives in the state to address the AT needs of individuals with disabilities. These initiatives are described in more detail as a part of “Coordination and Collaboration” in attachment 8. These entities have expertise in various disability areas, which will help to ensure SCATP can meet the needs of individuals regardless of their type of disability.

In addition to the Advisory Council described in Attachment 3 of this plan, SCATP will ensure that its program is consumer responsive by seeking direct feedback from those who access the program, either through on-site interviews with participants, follow-up surveys and electronically through the SCATP AT Online Network listserv.

2.1B Identification and Description of the Lead Agency if an Implementing Entity is Designated Not applicable.

2.2 Identification and Description of the Implementing Entity – Identify and describe the Implementing Entity referred to in section 4(c)(1)(B) of the AT Act, if such an Implementing Entity is designated by the Governor. Not applicable.

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2.3 Show of Good Cause for Change in Lead Agency or Implementing Entity – If the Governor has chosen to change the Lead Agency or, if applicable, Implementing Entity as allowed in section 4(c)(1)(C) of the AT Act, provide an explanation of good cause for this redesignation. Not applicable.

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Attachment 3: State Advisory Council

3.1 Membership of the Advisory Council - Identify the members of the Advisory Council and each member's designation as an individual with disabilities who uses AT, a family member or guardian of such individual, or a representative of a State agency or other entity.

Of the 40 members of the SC AT Advisory Council, 23 are individuals with disabilities who use AT or family members of individuals with disabilities who use AT. The remaining 16 members represent agencies, including: SC Department of Health & Environmental Control, Client Assistance Program (Office of the Governor), SC Vocational Rehabilitation Department, SC Independent Living Council, SC Commission for the Blind, Pee Dee Regional Center of the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN), SC Department of Education Office of Exceptional Children, Sumter School District Two, Learning Resources Assistive Technologies, SC Medical Equipment Services Association, State Workforce Investment Board, Rotary District 7770, Easter Seals Society, and Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities, Inc.

Members of the Advisory Council

Individuals with Disabilities: (13)

Family Members: (10)

State Agency and Organization Representatives: SC Department of Health & Environmental Control; Director, Client Assistance Program, Division of Ombudsman and Citizen Services, Office of the Governor; Commissioner, SC Vocational Rehabilitation Department; Assistant Commissioner, SC Vocational Rehabilitation Department; Executive Director, SC Independent Living Council; Commissioner, SC Commission for the Blind; Program Services Administrator, DDSN Pee Dee Regional Center; Office of Exceptional Children, SC Department of Education; Director of Special Services, Sumter School District Two; Learning Resources Assistive Technologies; Executive Director, SC Medical Equipment Services Association; Chairman, State Workforce Investment Board, Rotary District 7770; CEO/President, Easter Seals Society; recently retired Transition Coordinator; Director, Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities, Inc.; and Education Consultant.

The members of the Advisory Council live in counties throughout the state to ensure representation from both rural and urban areas. The Advisory Council includes members from minority communities, members who represent consumers of all ages, and members who use a variety of AT devices such as mobility devices, augmentative communication devices, aids for daily living, and computer adaptations.

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3.2 Structure and Operation of the Advisory Council – Describe the structure and operations of the Advisory Council.

Members can become part of the Advisory Council in several ways. Agency representatives may be appointed by their respective agencies or solicited by SCATP and then approved for representation by their respective agencies. Consumer representatives are volunteers solicited through networks of disability organizations and councils throughout the state, or solicited as a result of their community involvement in promoting the use of AT, their participation in the AT Expo, AT Online Network or other SCATP activities.

The Advisory Council is led by a chairperson who has a disability and uses AT. An appointed vice-chair will serve in the absence of the chairperson. The Advisory Council determines the need for workgroups. At the Chair's discretion, council decisions are made either through consensus or by member vote.

The Advisory Council meets in-person twice a year in Columbia, with additional meetings called as necessary by the Chair. SCATP staff will make the meeting room arrangements, develop materials for information packets for members, and ensure site and material accessibility. The SCATP Advisory Council chair and the SCATP Program Director together set the agenda for meetings to ensure that council members are informed about state AT issues. Meetings may feature presentations and guest speakers selected based on the input of council members. SCATP staff will update the Council on the activities of the program and solicit Advisory Council input into future SCATP goals and activities. The Chair facilitates discussion throughout the meeting to gain input and provide guidance in developing and planning program activities. Minutes of the meeting are recorded by SCATP staff.

In the next two years, SCATP will continue to ask the AT Advisory Council for input and guidance on specific SCATP activities, trainings, and outreach efforts. This will be done throughout the year via email and telephone.

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Attachment 4: Measurable Goals

SCATP will establish a baseline for each of the goals 4.1 through 4.7 during Year Two, and will submit after Year Two an amendment identifying the long term goals and short-term goals set to improve upon this baseline during Year Three and subsequent years of the State Plan. This baseline will be established by using a data collection instrument and procedures to be determined by RSA.

Goal for Improving Access to AT in Education

Long-term goal:

Short-term goal for Year 3:

Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish baseline of the percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service for educational purposes as a result of the assistance they received.

Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A data collection not established.

Goal for Improving Access to AT in Employment

Long-term goal:

Short-term goal for Year 3:

Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish baseline of the percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service for employment purposes as a result of the assistance they received.

Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A data collection not established.

Goal for Improving Access to AT in Community Living

Long-term goal:

Short-term goal for Year 3:

Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish baseline of the percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service for community living as a result of the assistance they received.

Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A data collection not established.

Goal for Improving Access to IT and Telecommunications

Long-term goal:

Short-term goal for Year 3:

Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish baseline of the percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service that meets an IT/telecommunications need as a result of the assistance they received.

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Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A data collection not established.

Goal for Improving Acquisition of AT in Education

Long-term goal:

Short-term goal for Year 3:

Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish baseline of the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from State financing activities or reutilization programs for educational purposes who would not have obtained the AT device or service.

Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A data collection not established.

Goal for Improving Acquisition of AT in Employment

Long-term goal:

Short-term goal for Year 3:

Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish baseline of the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from State financing activities or reutilization programs for employment purposes who would not have obtained the AT device or service.

Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A data collection not established.

Goal for Improving Acquisition of AT in Community Living

Long-term goal:

Short-term goal for Year 3

Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish baseline of the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from State financing activities or reutilization programs for community living purposes who would not have obtained the AT device or service.

Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A data collection not established.

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Attachment 5: State-level Activities

5.1 State Financing Activities – Describe how the State will implement State financing activities as described in section 4(e)(2)(A) of the AT Act.

South Carolina is invoking the Comparability Clause for state financing activities. See Attachment 6.

5.2 Device Reutilization Program – Describe how the State will implement a device reutilization program as described in section 4(e)(2)(B) of the Act.

SCATP provides the Used Equipment Referral Service (UERS) through the SCATP AT Online Network listserv. People with used equipment to sell or donate contact SCATP with a description of the equipment. UERS announcements are distributed to the 1600 AT listserv members who, in turn, share the announcement with consumers, service providers and others within their agencies, communities and school districts. The same process is used by people who are seeking used or donated equipment. UERS has linked people wanting to sell or donate equipment with those who need it. This simple system has provided equipment to individuals who are not able to get equipment through state, federal or local AT funding. UERS has been promoted through the SCATP Web site, the AT Online Network listserv, and at SCATP trainings.

UERS results in acquisition of AT devices for South Carolinians by providing an opportunity to acquire AT equipment at reduced funding or for free. This system connects people of all ages from different parts of the state. For example, an adult might have a used computer to give away to a student who lives in another part of the state.

Resource materials on regional and national computer recycling programs continue to be provided on the SCATP web site.

By the end of Year One, SCATP

1. Planned to increase access to the UERS by
 - A. Increasing its promotion through announcements to other listservs, on the SCATP Web page and publications, and at all AT trainings.
 - B. Promoting its use by service providers who are serving people without Internet access.
 - C. Listing and updating UERS items on a separate SCATP Web page, to include items for trade, donation and resale, as well as items that are sought for trade, donation and resale.

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- D. Establishing a listserv specifically for AT reutilization to include a list of people with AT devices to give (with or without a non-profit tax credit), trade or sell. Use the members of the listserv to gather information about other sources of used equipment, ways of transporting equipment being sold or traded among people throughout the state, and other practical solutions to offer South Carolinians who cannot afford AT through financial loan or public funding.

SCATP did not complete the activities listed in A-D above because SCATP plans to take advantage of electronic reutilization programs now available in collaboration with other state AT programs. SCATP learned of these programs during the Year by attending conferences sponsored by RESNA. While SCATP still maintains an email system for UERS, new reutilization activities are described in Year Two.

2. Provided South Carolinians with opportunities for **electronic device reutilization** opportunities, by

- A. Promoting (through announcements to listservs, on the SCATP Web Page, and at trainings) ATmATch.com, a marketplace where donors and sellers can locate buyers for a wide range of AT devices and Durable Medical Equipment. This service, provided by the Kansas Statewide Assistive Technology Program, is open to people from any state and will provide electronic data collection to SCATP.
- B. In collaboration with other state AT programs, contracting with AgoraNet to provide South Carolinians with "AT Exchange," a Web-Based System for AT Device Exchange.

3. Provided South Carolinians with opportunities for **other device reutilization** opportunities, by

- C. Researching existing regional and state programs that may offer equipment reutilization (device exchange and device repair/recycle), including Georgia ReBoot (through Walton Options), Easter Seals, SC Access (formerly the South Carolina Services Information System), USC Consolidated Services, State Surplus (under General Services, SC Budget and Control Board), and Cooperative Ministries in Columbia. This information will be included on the SCATP Web site in Year Two.
- D. Promoting the SC Commission for the Blind's computer refurbishing program in Charleston that provides training for older blind people on use of the Internet and JAWS. This program also provides refurbished computers to these individuals. Note: This activity has been added to SCATP's First Year plan, after learning about the SCCB recycling program.
- E. Collaborating with Georgia's AT Program "Tools for Life," in an AT re-use grant proposal, to expand ReBoot's and Friends of Disabled Adults and Children (FODAC)'s provision of computers and other equipment to South Carolina

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locations. Note: This activity was added to SCATP's First Year plan after an SCATP staff member attended the "Pass It On" conference in Atlanta.

By the end of Year Two, SCATP will

4. Provide South Carolinians with information about existing device reutilization programs by
 - A. Gathering and disseminating information (on the SCATP Web Page and through the AT Online Network listserv) about existing programs.
5. Increase the number of device reutilization programs available to South Carolinians by
 - A. Promoting and supporting the expansion of the SC Commission for the Blind's computer refurbishing program that provides training and refurbished computers for older blind people. Support the expansion of this program to locations such as Greenville, Rock Hill and Aiken.
 - B. SCATP planned to subcontract with Easter Seals for the repair of equipment donated to their equipment recycling program, with the expectation that this funding will then allow them more money for ramp building. SCATP also planned to subcontract with entities such as South Carolina's colleges (e.g., Coker College in Hartsville) or tech schools' engineering and computer science departments to establish student projects/courses that result in refurbished or repaired equipment for sale or donation to individuals and organizations. These activities are being replaced by activities that will be included in the regional grant with Georgia's "Tools for Life." as follows:
 1. Provide refurbished computers, through ReBoot, to South Carolina agencies/organizations who would, in turn, distribute them to individuals with disabilities and provide technical support to recipients.
 2. Provide refurbished assistive technology equipment, through FODAC, to South Carolina agencies/organizations who would, in turn, distribute them to individuals with disabilities.
 3. Work with South Carolina organizations (e.g., SC School for the Deaf and Blind, South Carolina Commission for the Blind, Easter Seals, Independent Living Centers, and SDE Regional Technology Centers) to determine what equipment is most needed by their people with disabilities.
 - B. (amended) Collaborating with Georgia's "Tools for Life" AT program and other regional state AT programs to

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4. Facilitate the gathering of donated items to these locations, for transport (and refurbishing) to FODAC and ReBoot.
5. Coordinate training of personnel within these agencies for refurbishing of some types of equipment.

By the end of Year Three, SCATP will

- C. Meet with the SC State Department of Education (SDE) to propose a program whereby school districts could list used equipment for trade or sale among school districts, managed via the SDE Web site. Note: Since SCATP has contracted with AgoraNet for the Web-based AT Exchange Program, this service may be expanded to include equipment exchange among school districts.
- D. Continue collaboration with Georgia “Tools for Life” and regional AT program partners to expand the distribution of refurbished equipment throughout South Carolina.
- E. SCATP planned to improve the services offered by State Surplus for people who need computers for AT purposes by
 - A. Collaborating with and training their staff to identify and earmark used computers for potential AT use.
 - B. Improving their intake procedures to help state agencies better identify computers that might be used with AT.
 - C. Publicizing this service widely among AT service providers, people with disabilities and their family members.

The activities in E. above will be eliminated from the SCATP plan, because focus will be re-directed to the new activities planned with Georgia “Tools for Life” and regional AT program partners.

5.3 Device Loan Program – Describe how the State will implement a device loan program as described in section 4(e)(2)(C) of the Act.

SCATP offers a short-term device loan program that is available to anyone in the state. The SCATP Device Loan Program increases access to AT by allowing people to try out different AT options before making the decision to purchase, or in some cases, the decision not to purchase AT. In this way, types and features of different devices can be compared in real-life situations (e.g., in the classroom, at home or work). Use of the SCATP device loan program helps prevent instances of AT device “abandonment” that happens when the decision to purchase AT equipment is made without addressing individual needs and, when necessary, considering more than one AT option.

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The SCATP Device Loan Program is promoted through the SCATP Web site, the AT Online Network listserv, at SCATP trainings, in all SCATP publications and by many service providers throughout the state.

SCATP staff members offer demonstrations, trainings and information to individuals accessing the device loan program. As often as possible, members of an individual's AT assessment or service team are included in the decision about which AT devices should be borrowed, as well as AT setup and use. Graduate assistants provide help in determining devices to borrow, maintaining devices, packaging, shipping, and processing of loan equipment.

Loan requests are processed after receipt of a signed loan agreement (signed by service provider, other professional or consumer). This agreement can be faxed or mailed to SCATP. When the loan request is received, SCATP staff members determine if the device is available for loan and if necessary add the individual to a waiting list. If necessary, SCATP staff consults with the borrower about other device options (e.g., if the device is already out on loan or if another device might be appropriate). There is no charge for initial shipping. The borrower is responsible for return shipping and postal insurance.

By the end of Year One, SCATP has

1. Expanded the outreach of the AT Device Loan Program to reach more individuals with disabilities, their family members and service providers with information of the existing SCATP AT Device Loan Program by
 - A. Publishing a list of equipment loan items (with photos for some devices) on the SCATP Web site and soliciting links to this list on other agency and organization Web sites.
 - B. Advertising the SCATP AT Device Loan Program through methods outlined under the Public Awareness Plan (See Attachment 8.2).
2. Increased the capacity of SCATP's AT Device Loan Program by
 - A. Conducting regular follow-up surveys from borrowers to determine the extent to which the loan program increased access to AT and to determine what other equipment is needed to help them make informed AT decisions.
 - B. Performing a review of holdings and device loan activity to determine new AT purchases.
 - C. Purchasing a significant amount of up-to-date equipment and disposing of outdated items and those that could not be repaired.
3. Increased the accessibility of SCATP's AT Device Loan Program by

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- A. Investigating electronic management of the device loan system.
- B. Establishing a toll-free number for SCATP.
- C. Providing the SCATP equipment loan request form on the SCATP Web site so that borrowers can access and print the form and then fax or mail with signatures that are required for accountability.

By the end of Year Two, SCATP will

- 4. Establish an electronic management system for the device loan system.
- 5. Provide a comprehensive list of other state AT device loan programs by
 - A. Compiling and reviewing information from the survey of existing device loan programs found on the SCATP Web page at <http://www.sc.edu/scatp/scatcenters/atcenterssurvey.htm>.
 - B. Soliciting completion of the online survey by additional school districts, independent living centers, hospitals and libraries statewide.
 - C. Researching other (more limited) AT device loan programs in the state and nearby regions to obtain contact information, loan policies, and loan holdings. Some of these programs will include: Easter Seals, DDSN Pee Dee Center, South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind, state Independent Living Centers, SC Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program, Veteran's Administration, Walton Options, Winthrop University, school districts, and vendors.
 - D. Printing and disseminating an SCATP fact sheet with a comprehensive, categorized list of AT device loan programs in the state and nearby region. Include this information on the SCATP Web site.
 - E. Establishing a system for updating the fact sheet mentioned in D. above twice a year.

By the end of Year Three, SCATP will

- 6. Increase opportunities for South Carolinians statewide to borrow devices by establishing a statewide AT Device Loan workgroup (including representatives from agencies mentioned in C. above) to
 - A. Research ways in which existing AT device loan programs might increase funding sources, including subcontracting by SCATP.

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- B. Investigate the practicality of coordinating the purchase of new equipment among existing AT device loan programs for more cost-effective expenditures.
- C. Establish a process for regular collaboration, networking and referral among existing state AT device loan programs.

5.4 Device Demonstration Program – Describe how the State will implement a device demonstration program as described in section 4(e)(2)(D) of the Act.

The SCATP AT Demonstration, Equipment Loan and Resource Center (the AT Center) in Columbia offers opportunities for equipment loan, hands-on trial, self-paced learning, information dissemination and AT demonstration. This Center is open and accessible to individuals of all ages and disabilities, their family members, service providers, and other interested parties. This AT Demonstration Center offers the most comprehensive inventory of AT items in the state. The Center displays low tech to high tech technology in four major areas: independent living, education, employment and recreation. Equipment includes a range of augmentative and alternative communication equipment, hardware and software for computer and curriculum access, sensory aids, environmental controls, adapted recreation equipment, telecommunications equipment, and aids for daily living. The AT Center provides product catalogues and literature about state and local AT vendors and providers.

The SCATP AT Center increases access to AT by allowing people with disabilities to try different AT options before making the decision whether to purchase AT. As often as possible, members of an individual's family, AT assessment or service team is included when an individual visits the SCATP AT Demonstration Center. Types and features of different devices can be compared in a single visit to the Center. The opportunity for trial use and demonstration will help prevent AT device "abandonment" that can occur when AT equipment is purchased without sufficient opportunity for trial use or demonstration.

The AT Center is visited by individuals with disabilities, their family members and service providers from throughout the state. SCATP staff members (and when possible, their AT teams or service providers) guide them as they try computer software and hardware for visual and mobility impairments, electronic and low tech aids for daily living, a wide range of low tech to high tech augmentative communication devices, and a variety of switches for adapted toys. Groups such as the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN), Head and Spinal Cord Injury (HASCI) service providers, SC Protection & Advocacy staff, disability program navigators from the Employment Security Commission "One-Stop" Centers, the Multiple Sclerosis Society and classes from throughout the state visit the Center for tours. Graduate and undergraduate education classes from universities throughout the state come to the Center for "labs" as part of their course work. These demonstrations help consumers and service providers make informed choices after hands-on experience with various types of AT.

By the end of Year One, SCATP

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1. Expanded the capacity of the SCATP AT Center by updating equipment, purchasing new technology and creating more self-paced learning activities within the Center.
2. Increased opportunities for trial of telecommunications equipment by
 - A. Providing telephone connections for the SC Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (TEDP) equipment in the AT Center, allowing visitors the opportunity for realistic trial use of the equipment.
 - B. Establishing a schedule in the AT Center for demonstrations of the TEDP equipment by TEDP staff and SCATP staff. SCATP planned to promote these demonstrations to the general public, staff at the Midlands Center, and through the SCATP AT Online Network listserv, and this will be completed in Year Two. Scheduling has been delayed in order to include new equipment for which TEDP is requesting approval from the South Carolina Public Service Commission.
3. Increased use of the SCATP AT Center by
 - A. Targeting and offering tours to consumer groups, college classes and service providers. By the end of Year One, SCATP planned to target and offer tours to school classes. This decision has been deferred in order to determine how the new SDE Regional Assistive Technology Specialist can collaborate in this activity.
 - B. By the end of Year One, SCATP planned to target school district AT teams for visits to the SCATP AT Center to build capacity, update skills, and problem-solve cases, with the goal of building sustainable AT District teams. This activity has been deferred in order to determine how the new SDE Regional Assistive Technology Specialist can collaborate in this goal.
 - C. Becoming an authorized Microsoft Accessibility Demonstration Center to demonstrate accessibility options and provide training on possible accessibility technology solutions available on today's computers for low vision, wrist/arm discomfort, hearing loss and other disabilities.
 - D. Advertising the SCATP AT Center widely through methods outlined under the Public Awareness Plan (see Attachment 8).
4. Provided a comprehensive list of other state AT demonstration centers by
 - F. Compiling and reviewing information from the survey of existing demonstration centers found on the SCATP Web page at <http://www.sc.edu/scatp/scatcenters/atcentersurvey.htm>.
 - G. Soliciting completion of the online survey by more school districts, independent living centers, hospitals and libraries statewide.

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- H. By the end of Year One, SCATP proposed to print and disseminate an SCATP fact sheet with a comprehensive, categorized list of AT demonstration centers in the state and nearby region, and to include this information on the SCATP Web site. This was not completed because research to gather this information is still ongoing. This task will be completed by the end of Year Two. The task of establishing a system for updating this fact sheet twice a year will also be completed in Year Two.
- 5. Consulted with the state Workforce Investment Act representative to identify training needs at the One-Stop Centers.

By the end of Year Two, SCATP will

- 6. Print and disseminate an SCATP fact sheet with a comprehensive, categorized list of AT demonstration centers in the state and nearby region, and include this information on the SCATP Web site. Establish a system for updating this document twice a year.
- 7. Promote TEDP demonstrations to the general public, staff at the Midlands Center, and through the SCATP AT Online Network listserv.
- 8. Work with the new SDE Regional Assistive Technology Specialist to collaborate in offering tours to school classes and in targeting school district AT teams for visits to the SCATP AT Center to build capacity, update skills, and problem-solve cases, with the goal of building sustainable AT District teams.
- 9. Support the expansion and improvement of existing state AT demonstration centers in schools, agencies and organizations. Possibilities include the Disability Resource Center (DRC) in Charleston, the Disability Action Center (DAC) in Greenville, the College of Charleston Education Department, the South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind (SCSDB) Computer Access Center, and DDSN Regional Centers. Help expand their capacity for AT demonstration by
 - A. Providing subcontract(s) to targeted center(s) for equipment and/or training.
 - B. Providing targeted trainings to personnel at existing AT demonstration centers to improve their knowledge of the AT equipment in their centers and their capacity to provide access to and acquisition of AT to people visiting their centers.
- 10. Collaborate with statewide Independent Living Centers and the SC Independent Living Council to plan “traveling” demonstrations of AT equipment at centers throughout the state.
- 11. Establish a process for regular collaboration, networking and referral among existing state AT device demonstration centers.

By the end of Year Three, SCATP will

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12. Improve demonstration and services offered to individuals with disabilities at the Employment Security Commission “One-Stop Centers.” Support their increased capacity by
 - A. Providing targeted training to their staff members in the use of AT offered at their centers.
 - B. Providing names of people with disabilities who use AT to serve as resources for consultation and demonstration at their centers.
 - C. Encouraging increased collaboration between the One-Stop Centers and SC Independent Living Centers.
13. Develop a plan and schedule for reaching more senior citizens throughout the state with a focus on aids for independent living at home and in community living environments. Collaborate with the SC Lt. Governor’s Office on Aging in this activity. Examples of entities for targeted outreach include senior centers, Councils on Aging, and Providing All Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE).
14. Create a “virtual tour” of the SCATP AT Center for the SCATP Web site.

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Attachment 6: Comparable Support

6.1 Source and Amount of Support – Identify the State-level activity for which there is comparable support, the source of this support, the amount of the support, and the project year for which this support is being provided.

There is no substantial change in the operation of the SC VR Alternative Financial Loan Program as described below.

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department (SCVRD) is conducting the Assistive Technology Financial Loan Program. The VR AT Financial Loan Program is funded under Title III of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998. The project year for the beginning of the Program was October 1, 2004 - September 30, 2005. The Program is proceeding in good standing fiscally. A match of \$100,000 was provided by SCVRD. In addition the SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN) provided support in the amount of \$10,000.

6.2 Comparability -- Demonstrate that this support is comparable in terms of funding and that the activities are comparable in terms of scope.

The Program's operating budget including the Federal money and match is \$542,285. The amount exceeds the amount that would be available if the program were to operate out of the available funding for the AT Act of 1998, as amended.

SCVRD's statewide program continues to provide access to vital AT devices and services and to help South Carolinians acquire assistive technology devices and services to enable them live more independently. There are no restrictions in the program in terms of disability, age, location, or type of AT device. Anyone who intends to use the loan to buy assistive technology for a South Carolina resident with a disability may apply, including people with disabilities, family members, employers or friends on behalf of an individual with a disability. The program offers loan guarantees and interest rate subsidies to South Carolinians with disabilities, their family members, employers or friends on behalf of an individual with a disability. The costs of training to use the equipment, insurance, extended warranties and maintenance plans may be included in the loan. Loans may be given in amounts up to \$30,000.

The program facilitates loans to purchase a broad range of assistive technology. Available equipment includes, but is not limited to wheelchairs, motorized scooters, Braille equipment, voice simulation systems, scanners, assistive listening devices, telecommunications devices for the deaf, augmentative/alternative communication systems, environmental control units, computers and adaptive peripherals, building modifications for accessibility, and motor vehicle and vehicle modifications. The program is publicized by SCVRD across the state at workshops, conferences, and on their web page. The Program provides an alternative access to those citizens who might otherwise not have a way to purchase AT devices and services and fills a tremendous gap for citizens with disabilities in SC to acquire assistive technology.

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- 6.3 Coordination and Collaboration – Describe how the State will coordinate activities and collaborate with the appropriate entity, if the comparable funds are provided to, or the activities are conducted by, an entity other than the Lead Agency or Implementing Entity.

The SC AT Financial Loan Program at SCVRD is conducted in conjunction with SC State Credit Union (SCU) with branches across the state, and the Foundation For Independence through Employment, a 501(c)3, a community-based organization to help citizens with disabilities. The SCATP Director serves on the Advisory Panel to the Alternative Financial Loan Program, along with the VR AT Program Director, three persons with disabilities, and a former VR Commissioner. The Advisory Panel members meet to review applications in face-to-face meetings or via telephone conference. Names of the applicants are kept anonymous except to the VR Program Director.

SCATP provides referrals to the loan program from inquiries received and also helps to publicize the Program at workshops, trainings, in publications, at the annual AT Expo, through the AT Online Network listserv and on the SCATP Web site.

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Attachment 7: State Flexibility

7.1 Activity – Identify each State-level activity the State is choosing not to carry out.

Not applicable. South Carolina is invoking the Comparability Clause for state financing activities. See Attachment 6.

7.2 Maintenance of Statewideness and Comprehensiveness – Demonstrate that the Statewide AT Program will continue to be comprehensive without conducting this activity. Not applicable.

7.3 Achievement of Measurable Goals - Demonstrate that the State can reach its measurable education goals, employment goals, telecommunications and information technology goals, and community living goals without conducting such activities. Not applicable.

7.4 Coordination and Collaboration – Describe how the Lead Agency or Implementing Entity will coordinate activities and collaborate with entities in the State that do conduct this activity, if the State chooses not to conduct this activity because another entity already conducts it. Not applicable.

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Attachment 8: State Leadership Activities

8.1 Training and Technical Assistance Activities – Describe how the State will provide training and technical assistance to enhance the knowledge, skills, and competencies of individuals from local settings statewide, including representatives of State and local educational agencies, other State and local agencies, early intervention programs, adult service programs, hospitals and other health care facilities, institutions of higher education and businesses as described in section 4(e)(3)(B)(i) of the AT Act.

SCATP training and technical assistance activities are held in locations throughout the state and at national conferences and workshops. Trainings in the state are offered free or for a nominal charge and encompass a variety of AT topics. They are targeted to and accessible to individuals with many types of disabilities, their family members and service providers, as well as personnel from state agencies and entities that serve people with disabilities. The South Carolina AT Expo offers continuing education sessions for many disciplines.

In addition to trainings conducted by SCATP staff, SCATP uses outside experts to present trainings. Trainings are targeted to early intervention programs, libraries, schools, adult service programs, hospitals, healthcare facilities, professional organizations, institutions of higher education, disability support groups, and representatives of State and local educational agencies. Trainings include such topics as general AT awareness, skills-development training, importance of multiple approaches to assessment, accessibility of electronic and information technology, selection and use of AT devices and services, integrating AT into the development and implementation of service plans, and AT for the transition of students leaving secondary education.

SCATP collaborates with state Assistive Technology Advisory Committee (ATAC) members to update and provide comprehensive, statewide trainings in the implementation of the “Web Site Accessibility Policy and Transition Plan for the State of South Carolina” that was passed by the Architectural Oversight Committee (AOC) of the SC Budget and Control Board CIO. SCATP collaborates in providing trainings and technical assistance to state agencies and other entities in the use of the “508 Compliance Transition Plan Worksheet.” This Worksheet details the recommended approach to achieving compliance with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, amended in 1998 by the Workforce Investment Act and W3C Best Practices, outlining the specific tasks necessary to achieve compliance.

SCATP staff members present regular trainings in conjunction with other agencies’ pre-service and in-service training programs, such as the Head and Spinal Cord Injury Division of the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN), and PRO Parent’s Partners in Policymaking Program.

SCATP works within the University of South Carolina, School of Medicine, providing opportunities for collaboration with the Developmental Pediatric Clinic, the USC Center

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for Disability Resources Community Development Project and DDSN, including the Autism Division and Head and Spinal Cord Injury Division to provide a location for collaboration on trainings, demonstrations, AT assessments and consultations.

SCATP worked with the SC Department of Education to create Regional AT Specialist positions (funded by the SDE, locating one person in the SCATP office). The activities of the previously planned “School Initiative” will be addressed by collaborating with the regional AT specialists and are included in Year Two.

SCATP’s recently revised CD ROM “SC Curriculum Access through Assistive Technology” is distributed free of charge to school districts, agency administrators, training attendees and other interested persons. Principles for effective AT assessment and integration in the classroom are illustrated in the CD through text, videos, interviews and pictures of South Carolina’s students, parents, teachers, principals and therapists. The CD ROM itself is presented in a format that models information technology accessibility. It is used throughout the state for local trainings and presentations and as a self-paced learning tool.

In the previous SCATP plan, requests for help sent to the AT Network listserv and publication of transportation fact sheets were included in this section of the plan. Due to the revised definition of technical assistance, these activities have been moved to the “Public Awareness and Information Dissemination” section 8.2 of the plan.

SCATP staff members travel to on-site locations in schools and agencies to provide technical assistance and consultation about types of equipment, modifications and software that might benefit a child, a student, or an adult with disabilities, and discussion of available resources for assessment, purchase, funding, device selection and use.

By the end of Year One, SCATP

1. Increased opportunities for training in AT for curriculum and IT access by
 - A. Collaborating with ATAC to provide the statewide Web Accessibility Conference in conjunction with the annual AT Expo. Note: This activity was additional to those planned for Year One.
 - B. Widely distributing and promoting the CD ROM “SC Curriculum Access through Assistive Technology” as a training tool to personnel in agencies, organizations and advocacy groups.
 - C. SCATP planned to create a “training suggestion guide” to help choose video and text segments within the CD for targeted trainings and presentations to specific groups. This activity has been deferred to Year Two.

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- D. Tracking activities and outcomes resulting from the use of this CD ROM by SCATP and others. Due to the ongoing development of data collection instrument, this activity is deferred to Year Two.
- 2. By the end of Year One, SCATP proposed to increase the capacity for technical assistance through the SCATP Online Network listserv by
 - A. Establishing a mechanism for summarizing responses to technical assistance questions presented to the AT Online Network listserv.
 - B. Editing and publishing common requests and responses on the SCATP Web site, in order to reach a wider audience with information about AT access, acquisition, funding, use and resources, and in order to encourage more participation in this collaborative technical assistance service offered through the listserv.

Due to the increasing number of national and regional AT-specific listservs that serve this purpose, this activity will not be initiated.

- 3. Increased attendance by South Carolinians at existing AT trainings by
 - A. Gathering and disseminating information about AT trainings presented locally, in the state and nationally.
 - B. Networking with the SC Department of Education's Office of Exceptional Children (OEC) to disseminate training information directly to targeted mailing lists to reach a wider audience.
- 4. Increased the number of SCATP trainings available to South Carolinians by
 - A. Creating and publishing a list of "SCATP Trainings" that can be provided by SCATP staff members to groups throughout the state.
- 5. SCATP planned to provide an annual statewide training on AT transition for students from high school to employment, independent living and higher education and to invite the Disabilities, Opportunities, Internetworking, and Technology (DO-IT) Program from the University of Washington to conduct the training. Instead of planning a separate statewide training on transition, a summer youth leadership forum was conducted from the culmination of a year-long interagency partnership called "Partners in Transition," of which SCATP is a member.
- 6. Co-sponsoring the "train the trainer" workshop entitled "IDEA 2004: The Transition Requirements." (Note: This was in addition to activities originally planned for Year One.)
- 7. Offering two sessions addressing transition in the 2006 AT Expo session schedule.

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8. Collaborating with the Training for Early Childhood Solutions (TECS), the SC lead agency for IDEA Part C, called BabyNet in South Carolina, to schedule trainings on AT needs and transition issues for the 0-3 population.
9. Increasing the capacity of “Community Building,” a pilot project of Charles Lea Center and the Center for Disability Resources (CDR) to provide AT to its clients by
 - A. Providing AT consultation to determine the most practical AT interventions (e.g., computer screen reading software, personal response and security systems, aids for daily living) to help adults with disabilities transition into community living.
 - B. Providing consultation to these consumers in the use of selected AT.

Note: Number 9 above was originally planned for Year Two, but was started in Year One and will continue in Year Two.

By the end of Year Two, SCATP will

10. Improve the capacity and expertise of school district AT teams by
 - A. Working with the newly established SDE Regional AT Specialists to facilitate improved AT team development, coordination and AT application, enhancing knowledge, skills and competencies of school district staff in the use of AT.
11. Increase opportunities for training in AT for curriculum and IT access by
 - A. Creating a “training suggestion guide” to help choose video and text segments within the CD for targeted trainings and presentations to specific groups. This activity has been deferred to Year Two.
 - B. Tracking activities and outcomes resulting from the use of this CD ROM by SCATP and others. Due to the ongoing development of data collection instrument, this activity is deferred to Year Two.
 - C. Co-sponsoring the summer 2007 “South Carolina Youth Leadership Forum for Students with Disabilities,” in collaboration with “Partners in Transition.”
 - D. Facilitating and providing funding support for a presentation by a young South Carolinian with severe Cerebral Palsy who has successfully made the transition from high school to career, using AT.
12. SCATP planned to increase the availability of training and technical assistance to underserved populations by

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- A. Developing an SCATP “train the trainer” service to other agencies, providing technical assistance, resources, sample outlines, loan of AT equipment and other assistance as needed, for their statewide AT presentations.
- B. Collaborating with agencies, organizations and schools to tailor trainings and technical assistance to underserved populations (e.g., individuals with disabilities due to aging or progressive disease).
- C. Targeting Disabilities and Special Needs (DSN) Boards, Councils on Aging, in-service trainings in hospitals, and rural school districts.

The activities A-C above are no longer feasible with the existing SCATP staff. Because SDE AT Regional Specialist positions have been established by SDE, SCATP staff will be focused on reaching students and service providers in underserved school districts. In collaboration with the SDE AT Regional Specialists, SCATP staff will focus the following specific activities:

- A. Working with the SDE Regional AT Specialist to implement use of the CD ROM “Curriculum Access through Assistive Technology” training guide.
- B. Developing an ‘AAC Symbol Assessment Tool’ to be used as a toolkit for trainings. Professionals will use the toolkit to train staff in their agencies in appropriate symbol selection for use in AAC systems.

13. In Year Two SCATP planned to increase the accessibility of state AT trainings to people with disabilities in rural settings by providing trainings on vehicle modifications and transportation issues to citizens in rural areas through DSN Boards, independent living centers and other groups. This activity is not considered practical or feasible and is being deleted from the plan.

By the end of Year Three, SCATP will

14. Increase the opportunities for training in the area of transition by
- A. Collaborating with the SDE Transition Specialist to produce an interactive CD ROM focused on principles of successful AT transition for students leaving high school, including transition to employment, community living or higher education.
 - B. Using South Carolina’s teachers, school district personnel, parents, students, service providers (e.g., from SC Vocational Rehabilitation, the Commission for the Blind or the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs) and students to illustrate how these principles are successfully applied.
 - C. Creating a “training suggestion guide” to help choose video and text segments within the CD for targeted trainings and presentations to specific groups.

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- D. Establishing a method of tracking activities and outcomes resulting from the use of this CD ROM by SCATP and others.

8.2 Public Awareness Activities – Describe how the State will provide information to targeted individuals and entities relating to the availability, benefits, appropriateness, and costs of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services as described in section 4(e)(3)(B)(ii) of the AT Act.

SCATP publications (approximately 35 fact sheets and articles) are widely distributed at conferences, meetings, trainings and events around the state. The SCATP Web page provides over 730 links to state and national resources. SCATP publications are offered in alternate formats (e.g., enlarged text, Braille) upon request.

SCATP's AT Online Network listserv reaches people throughout the state and provides opportunities for expanded public awareness through information dissemination, networking and outreach. The number of listserv subscribers has increased from the baseline membership of 1100 people at the beginning of the three-year plan, to a current membership of 1600.

SCATP's annual AT Expo publicity is orchestrated as a public awareness campaign. Information reaches South Carolina's citizens through listservs, newsletters, university publications, specific articles in state, university and local newspapers, as well as radio and television interviews. Local service providers and consumers are used for TV, newspaper and radio interviews.

The annual South Carolina AT Expo provides approximately 60 exhibits of AT devices and services. Experienced personnel (service providers and vendors) are available to show low tech to high tech equipment for education, employment, mobility, recreation, augmentative communication, transportation, home modifications and independent living. These exhibits also provide information (e.g., catalogues and contact information) about state and local agencies and AT vendors and provide an opportunity for networking among attendees from across the state.

In response to requests, SCATP staff members travel throughout the state to health fairs, disability celebrations and conferences to present exhibits with SCATP publications and demonstrations of AT that are applicable to the population being served at the event.

SCATP staff members provide or coordinate requests for assistance from consumers, service providers and agency personnel in the SCATP AT Demonstration, Equipment Loan and Resource Center, over the telephone and via email. This assistance consists of consultation about types of equipment, modifications and software that might benefit a child, a student, or an adult with disabilities, and discussion of available resources for assessment, purchase, funding, device selection and use. Note: due to a change in the definition of "technical assistance" this activity has been moved from the "Training and Technical Assistance" Section 8.1.

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The AT Online Network listserv facilitates requests among the 1600 network members for information concerning AT equipment, services and funding challenges. Requests for assistance are from consumers, service providers and agency representatives about the selection, assessment, funding or use of AT devices and services. Input is received from people throughout the state from many agencies, organizations and locales. Responses are evaluated, compiled and shared with the appropriate service providers and consumers requesting the information. Note: due to a change in the definition of “technical assistance” this activity has been moved from the “Training and Technical Assistance” Section 8.1.

By the end of Year One, SCATP

1. Expanded the SCATP Web page to add or expand the following columns: “Latest AT Innovations,” “SC Assistive Technology Success Stories,” “South Carolina Leaders in AT,” “Upcoming AT Trainings,” “What’s New at SCATP,” and “What’s New on the SCATP Web site.”
2. Established a toll-free number for SCATP, making SCATP services accessible to more people in rural settings and those with low incomes, as well as those who do not have Internet access. The toll-free number is used to provide information about the annual AT Expo and other SCATP trainings, events and services.
3. Continued updating and re-organizing the SCATP mailing list (6000 people at the beginning of the Three Year plan), adding email addresses, and mailing updated fact sheets and information to members of the list. Originally SCATP planned to use the mailing list to mail fact sheets and information to targeted groups. Since this activity is more easily done through email, SCATP will not use surface mail for this purpose.
4. SCATP planned to print an SCATP brochure (with date of revision) to promote SCATP services and programs. With the recent addition of two staff members, this activity can now be accomplished in Year Two.
5. Designed a magnifier and pen with the SCATP Web site address, toll-free number and regular phone number. Disseminated these tools to Expo attendees, visitors to the AT Demonstration, Equipment Loan and Resource Center, and to attendees at various conference and exhibits.
6. Researched and consulted with other state AT experts, consumers and the SCATP Advisory Council to publish new SCATP fact sheets on: “Ramps,” “Vans and Lift Funding,” “Resources for Recycled Computers,” “Transition for the 0-3 Population,” “AT for the 0-3 Population,” and “Transportation Options for South Carolinians with Disabilities.” With the recent addition of two staff members, this activity can be accomplished in Year Two.

By the end of Year Two, SCATP will

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6. Print an SCATP brochure (with date of revision) to promote SCATP services and programs.
7. Reach a wider population of South Carolinians, including people with disabilities and their family members, by
 - A. Establishing contacts with public relations departments throughout the state. Examples are: the SC State Department of Education (SDE), South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department (SCVR), state and regional colleges, universities and tech schools, nursing homes, assisted living centers, hospitals, agency and organization newsletters, Web sites, listservs, churches, Councils on Aging, newspapers, TV and other state media venues.
 - B. Sending periodic, targeted announcements from SCATP regarding trainings, “AT success stories,” latest AT inventions, innovations, AT devices and services.
8. Update and expand SCATP fact sheets to provide current contact information and to include more statewide resources for each topic. Collaborate with South Carolina Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities and the South Carolina State Library to research and update SCATP fact sheets related to AT funding (Medicaid and Medicare), transition, computer funding and recycling, van and lift funding, and local, state and national AT grant opportunities for non-profits and individuals.

By the end of Year Three, SCATP will

9. Collaborate with the Councils on Aging and Division on Aging to improve the dissemination of AT information through the SC ACCESS online guide to resources for older adults, people with disabilities, their families and caregivers.
10. Reach a wider population of South Carolinians by
 - A. Working with USC Media Relations to improve public awareness and promote local and statewide AT success stories.
 - B. Using the resources of SCATP Advisory Council members to promote and provide interviews.
 - C. Developing a system for regular emailing of “AT Success Stories” in article form to local and state newspapers.

8.3 Coordination and Collaboration – Describe how the State will coordinate activities among public and private entities that are responsible for policies, procedures, or funding for the provision of assistive technology devices and

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assistive technology services to individuals with disabilities, service providers, and others to improve access to assistive technology devices and assistive technology services as described in section 4(e)(3)(B)(iii) of the AT Act.

SCATP provides leadership to the statewide Assistive Technology Advisory Committee (ATAC) under the Office of the Chief Information Officer (CIO) of the SC Budget and Control Board. A primary area of focus is accessibility of government electronic and information technology (including Web sites) for South Carolina's citizens. SCATP works with ATAC in the implementation of the Web Site Accessibility Policy and Transition Plan for the State of South Carolina that was passed by the Architecture Oversight Committee (AOC) of the CIO. SCATP updates and maintains the "Computer Accessibility List" of best practices for computer software and hardware related to assistive technology that was adopted by the state AOC.

SCATP coordinates a committee of consumers with disabilities in reviewing web pages for state agencies, evaluating accessibility and usability, using the SC Web Site Accessibility Policy as a basis of review. This activity will be continued in Year Two.

SCATP staff members will continue to serve on the following statewide committees: the SC State Department of Education (SDE) State Assessment Committee, the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department (SCVR) AT Financial Loan Advisory Panel, SDE Ed Tech Conference Proposal Committee, Carolina Sunshine for Children Board, SC Interagency Partners in Transition, SDE Alternative Assessment Committee, South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind (SCSDB) AT Committee, South Carolina Speech and Hearing Association (SCSHA) Executive Committee, and the DDSN AT Counterpart Committee.

By the end of Year One, SCATP

1. Helped state agencies in the implementation of the Web Site Accessibility Policy and Transition Plan by
 - A. Collaborating with ATAC members to develop a pilot program in which a trained group of individuals with disabilities, as well as other Web accessibility experts, is used to perform accessibility/usability testing for South Carolina's state agencies.
 - B. Planning to develop best practices from the state policy and an online testing matrix to use in evaluating Web pages according to the best practices. This activity is still in process, in collaboration with the CIO's office, and will be completed in Year Two.
 - C. Developing training content and methods, funding process, procedures, reporting format, accountability and program administration. This activity is still in process and will be completed in Year Two.

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2. Assisted with the implementation of AT and IT accessibility policies in the SDE State Technology Plan by
 - A. Collaborating with SDE Office of Technology and Office of Exceptional Children to help with the annual review of the SDE State Technology Plan.
 - B. SCATP planned to collaborate with other agencies and service providers to identify and evaluate the progress made in school districts in reaching goals for district technology coaches and AT planning teams, and to collaborate with SDE and school districts to share and publish information about school district successes, methods and challenges. These activities are planned for Year Two by working with the newly established Regional Technology Specialists. SCATP will provide office space for one of the people holding this regional position.

By the end of Year Two, SCATP will

3. Coordinate a review and update of SCATP's "Computer Accessibility List" with AT experts from SCVR, the South Carolina Commission for the Blind (SCCB), the South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind and SCATP Advisory Council members.
4. Improve procedures within school districts for the consideration of AT in Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) by
 - A. Working with the SDE Office of Exceptional Children and the newly established Regional AT Specialists, to include more assistive technology examples, considerations and options in IEP trainings, resources, and procedures.
 - B. Assisting the SDE Office of Exceptional Children with the accessibility of their online IEP form.
5. Finish development of the Web Tester Pilot Program by
 - A. Completing the online testing matrix to use in evaluating Web pages according to the best practices.
 - B. Completing development of training content and methods, funding process, procedures, reporting format, accountability and program administration.

By the end of Year Three, SCATP will

6. Collaborate with SDE Office of Assessment regarding the accessibility of their online tests and forms for the Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) and High School Assessment Program (HSAP) tests, including more explanation and consideration of AT in their testing procedures. Work with SDE to provide targeted trainings for key SDE personnel involved in test administration and test conversion to electronic media.

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Attachment 9: Involvement of Public and Private Entities

9.1 Nature and Extent of Resources – Describe the nature and extent of resources that will be committed by public and private collaborators to assist in accomplishing identified goals.

SCATP worked with the SC Department of Education to create Regional AT Specialist positions (funded by the SDE, locating one Regional Specialist in the SCATP office). The activities of the previously planned “School Initiative” will be accomplished by collaborating with these regional AT specialists and are included in Year Two.

Through an interagency agreement, SCATP continues to work with the SC Assistive Technology Advisory Committee (ATAC) under the Office of the Chief Information Officer (CIO) of the SC Budget and Control Board. SCATP will continue to coordinate the pilot program in which a trained group of individuals with disabilities, as well as other Web accessibility experts, are contacted to perform accessibility/usability testing for South Carolina’s state agencies. This activity is described in Attachment 8.1.

ATAC also provided funds and personnel for the Web Accessibility Conference that was held in conjunction with the annual SC Assistive Technology Expo. The SC Department of Education also provided funds to support the AT Expo.

9.2 Mechanisms to Ensure Coordination - Describe the mechanisms established to ensure coordination of activities and collaboration between the implementing entity, if any, and the State. Not applicable.

9.3 Involvement of State Advisory Council - Describe the nature and extent of the involvement of the State Advisory Council in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the activities carried out through the grant, including setting the measurable goals required in section 4(d)(3).

Throughout the year, members of the SC AT Advisory Council provided direction to the SCATP’s plan and activities during the year. A meeting in November was held to familiarize Council members with the overall goals and activities of the SCATP plan. A meeting is scheduled for August 2006 to provide Council members an opportunity to see the expanded AT Demonstration, Equipment Loan and Resource Center. Members will also provide input into SCATP’s revised reutilization plan.

In the next two years, the South Carolina Assistive Technology Advisory Council of SCATP will provide consumer-driven, consumer-responsive advice to SCATP for planning and implementation of the goals and activities of SCATP.

The Advisory Council will meet twice a year to evaluate progress toward established goals and to offer suggestions for improvement and change. Measurable goals will be reviewed and evaluated on a regular basis and any adjustments necessary will be made in response to and under the guidance of the Advisory Council.

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Attachment 10: State Support

10.1 State Support for State-level Activities – If applicable, describe how the State will support with State funds any State-level activities described in section 4(e)(2).

It is anticipated that in the next two years the USC School of Medicine, Center for Disability Resources, University Center for Excellence (CDR) will continue to provide general administrative support for the program as an in-kind contribution. It is anticipated that in the next two years the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN) will continue to provide space for the AT Equipment Loan, Demonstration and Resource Center as an in-kind contribution.

10.2 State Support for State Leadership Activities - If applicable, describe how the State will support with State funds any State Leadership activities described in section 4(e)(3), if applicable.

SCATP received \$4,000 in support of the annual statewide AT Expo held in March 2006. No funds were provided for a collaborative state-wide training from the Department of Education (SDE) this year due to conflicts in scheduling. However, it is still anticipated that depending on SDE appropriations, SDE will provide funding support for the AT Expo and a collaborative training in Year Two.

SCATP received \$5,000 from the Assistive Technology Advisory Committee (ATAC) of the State Budget and Control Board for support of a South Carolina Web Accessibility Conference held in conjunction with the annual AT Expo in March 2006.

Work with the Assistive Technology Advisory Committee (ATAC) on a pilot program for web testers is ongoing. It is anticipated that the pilot program will be completed in Year Two and that ATAC will support SCATP with funds amounting to \$10,000.

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Attachment 11: Allocation and Utilization of Funds

11.1 Tracking Expenditures – Describe planned procedures for tracking expenditures for activities described in sections 4(e)(2) and (3).

The University of South Carolina's Data Warehouse System tracks and records revenue and expenditures for all departments. These reports are updated daily using class codes to distinguish types of expenditures. It will be the responsible of The Center for Disability Resources to set up detailed accounting units for State Level and State Leadership Activities under this grant to monitor expenditures accordingly. Monthly reports will be processed to assure compliance with the grant.

11.2 Proposed Budget Allocations – Attach a budget containing proposed allocations for activities described in sections 4(e)(2) and (3).

Proposed	Distribution	Total Award Amount	
		<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>
Federal Grant Award		\$414,768	\$431,507
Indirect Cost	10%	\$ 37,706	\$ 39,228
Remaining Allocation		\$377,062	\$392,279
State Level	60%	\$226,237	\$235,367
State Leadership	40%	\$150,825	\$156,912
Leadership Activities	95% (of 40%)	\$ 143,284	\$ 149,066
Transition	5% (of 40%)	\$ 7,541	\$ 7,846

State Level Activities

	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>
Device Loan Program	\$124,430 (55%)	\$117,683 (50%)
Device Demonstration Program	\$ 79,183 (35%)	\$ 70,610 (30%)
Device Re-utilization Program	\$ 22,624 (10%)	\$ 47,074 (20%)

State Leadership Activities

Training and Technical Assistance	\$ 82,954 (55%)	\$ 39,228 (25%)
Public Awareness	\$ 30,165 (20%)	\$ 54,919 (35%)
Coordination and Collaboration	\$ 30,165 (20%)	\$ 54,919 (35%)
Transition	\$ 7,541 (5%)	\$ 7,846 (5%)